

# The 2010 Census: What It Means For You and Your Family

The 2010 Census is approaching quickly

In March 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States. The 2010 Census is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes about 10 minutes to complete. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker who will ask you the questions from the form in person in person. Your answers are safe and secure and will directly affect the federal funding that your neighborhoods receive.

Your Participation is Necessary

The Constitution requires a national census every 10 years. As part of the census, everyone in the United States must be counted. This includes both citizens and non-citizens living in the United States and people of all ages, races and ethnic groups.

Your Answers Can Improve Your Neighborhoods

Census data are used to determine the number of seats that each state holds in the House of Representatives. Additionally, census data directly affect how federal funding is distributed to state and local governments. These funds can go to programs and services that your community needs, including hospitals, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and job training centers.

Your Information is Safe

Your answers to the census questions are safe. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone-- including other federal agencies, law enforcement entities and housing authorities.

The framers of the Constitution believed firmly that a census was a necessary building block for a successful nation. Today, the census still gives a voice to every person living in the United States and allows them to help the government to distribute resources to places that need it most. To learn more about the census and how your answers affect the nation and your communities, please visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).

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